

Amendments to the Claims: Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for controlling a connection in a packet-oriented communication network, the method comprising:

prompting a first of a plurality of communication end points connected via at least one user data channel to close the at least one user data channel by transmitting a first signaling message by a signaling control device of the communication network;

transmitting a confirmation request message to a second of the communication end points by the signaling control device, as a result of which the second communication end point is prompted to transmit a confirmation message to the signaling control device after the successful closure of the at least one user data channel; and

prompting a communication end point to open at least one new user data channel by transmitting a second signaling message by the signaling control device in consequence of the receiving the confirmation message;

wherein if the confirmation message does not reach the signaling control device within a predefined time interval, the signaling control device analyzes signaling traffic transmitted in the context of the connection, to identify successful closure of the at least one user data channel.

19. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the transmission of the confirmation request message to the second communication end point is effected in the context of the user data channel closure prompted by the first signaling message, as a result of which the second communication end point is prompted to confirm precisely this user data channel closure when successful.

20. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the transmission of the confirmation request message to the second communication end point is effected further to a connection set-up, as a result of which the second communication end point is prompted for the duration of the connection to transmit a confirmation message to the signaling control device after successful closure of a user data channel.

21. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the transmission of the confirmation request message to the second communication end point is effected further to registration of the second communication end point with the signaling control device, as a result of which the second communication end point is prompted for the duration of its registration to transmit a confirmation message to the signaling control device after successful closure of a user data channel.

22. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the first communication end point is identical to the second communication end point.

23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein a generic message, extended to include a specific confirmation request information element, is transmitted as the confirmation request message.

25. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein a generic message, extended to include a specific confirmation information element, is transmitted as the confirmation message.

26. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein a channel closure message to close the at least one user data channel is transmitted via the signaling control device from the first communication end point to a communication end point connected to this via the at least one user data channel.

27. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the communication network is set up according to the ITU-T recommendation H.323.

28. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein a terminal capability set message according to the ITU-T recommendation H.245 with an empty capability set is transmitted as the first signaling message.

29. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the confirmation request message and/or the confirmation message are each configured as a RAS (Registration, Admission and Status) message according to the ITU-T recommendation H.225.0.

30. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the communication network is set up according to the IETF standard SIP (Session Initiation Protocol).

31. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein it is specified by the confirmation request message whether the successful closure of a user data transmission channel and/or whether the successful closure of a user data receiving channel should be confirmed.

32. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein it is specified by the confirmation message whether a successfully closed user data channel is a user data transmission channel or a user data receiving channel.

33-34. (canceled)

35. (new) A method for controlling a connection in a packet-oriented communication network, the method comprising:

prompting a first of a plurality of communication end points connected via at least one user data channel to close the at least one user data channel by transmitting a first signaling message by a signaling control device of the communication network;

transmitting a confirmation request message to a second of the communication end points by the signaling control device, as a result of which the second communication end point is prompted to transmit a confirmation message to the signaling control device after the successful closure of the at least one user data channel; and

prompting a communication end point to open at least one new user data channel by transmitting a second signaling message by the signaling control device in consequence of the receiving the confirmation message;

wherein the transmission of the confirmation request message to the second communication end point is effected further to a connection set-up, as a result of which the second communication end point is prompted for the duration of the connection to transmit a confirmation message to the signaling control device after successful closure of a user data channel.

36. (new) A method for controlling a connection in a packet-oriented communication network, the method comprising:

prompting a first of a plurality of communication end points connected via at least one user data channel to close the at least one user data channel by transmitting a first signaling message by a signaling control device of the communication network;

transmitting a confirmation request message to a second of the communication end points by the signaling control device, as a result of which the second communication end point is prompted to transmit a confirmation message to the signaling control device after the successful closure of the at least one user data channel; and

prompting a communication end point to open at least one new user data channel by transmitting a second signaling message by the signaling control device in consequence of the receiving the confirmation message;

wherein the transmission of the confirmation request message to the second communication end point is effected further to registration of the second communication end point with the signaling control device, as a result of which the second communication end point is prompted for the duration of its registration to transmit a confirmation message to the signaling control device after successful closure of a user data channel.